

UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL USE ONLY

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SECRET

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

C [redacted] J, CI/Liaison

EXTENSION

NO.

2C 35

6857

DATE

22 May 1967

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS: (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

SE/CA-C [redacted] J

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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 25X2
EVALUATION DISCLOSURE AUTHORITY
DATE 2007

FORM 3-62

610

USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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22 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Ukrainian Document Allegedly Seized by U.S. Customs

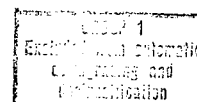
1. This is to complete the record on my transactions with Mr. Fleishman, Assistant Commissioner of Investigations U.S. Customs, on the question of what happened to a film copy of a 239 page Ukrainian language document that allegedly was seized by New York Customs from the personal effects of John Petruszo when he arrived at JFK Airport, New York City, on 8 October. The purpose of all transactions was to locate and recover this document so that no harm would come to its author who remains a resident of the Soviet Union.

2. My daily logs of 9, 12, and 14 December cover investigative actions taken by Customs up to that time. Copies of these already have been sent to [] of SB/CA who requested the action. Attached here is my daily log of 31 January which refers to reports of interviews of both Messrs. Petruszo and Shandor. Copies of the reports in question have already been furnished to [].

3. On 3 May 1967 I questioned Mr. Fleishman as to what had come of their investigations and particularly if they had established the true facts concerning the alleged Customs seizure of the document. He explained that the investigation is in the hands of his New York Supervisor but they have not yet recovered the document. They still maintain hope that they will do so. They do not know what happened to the document but their investigation suggests three possibilities listed in the order of probability.

a. A Customs Inspector questioned the documents, seized them as claimed by Mr. Petruszo, and misfiled them. Now the document may be virtually lost among Customs documents in New York.

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b. An officer of another Federal Agency, aided and abetted by a Customs Inspector, intercepted Petruszo behind the Customs barrier and relieved him of the document and his Customs declaration. This had happened before although there are strict Customs' rules against it (Mr. Fleishman is very sensitive about this possibility and has used this incident to tighten up on these regulations).

c. Messrs. Petruszo and Shandor are lying and are using this story to cover up their own disposition of the document.

4. Mr. Fleishman indicated that the investigation involves the conduct of Customs personnel and until it is resolved he prefers not to provide written reports to us on the investigation. He still is pursuing and protecting our interest so that the document can be located and retrieved if at all possible. I recommend that we leave the investigative responsibility in Mr. Fleishman's hands. Customs may not produce the document or the true facts of the situation for some time but having once started on this course with Customs I think we should remain with it.

✓ CI/Liaison

✓ cc: SB/CA, ✓

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19 May 1967

Excerpt from Customs Daily Log - January 1967

31 January

Messrs. PETRUSZO & SHANDOR

Larry Fleishman furnished a copy of their report of interviews of both PETRUSZO & SHANDOR. The discrepancy in their separate stories indicate that one or both are lying. Mr. Fleishman was not satisfied with the quality of the reporting and would have New York do supplementary investigation or supplementary reporting depending where the fault resided. There is no Headquarters Security file on SHANDOR and Mr. Fleishman will ask New York to send into Washington their files on him. He also gave me a copy of the letter which PETRUSZO sent into Customs asking for return of the material that Customs allegedly took from him when he returned to the U.S. via JFK Airport. Mr. Fleishman said they would give SHANDOR a good shaking down if we wanted it. I told him we were not interested in SHANDOR only the whereabouts of the document. I asked that he continue to conceal CIA interest in whatever investigations are conducted. I fear that investigation will show that SHANDOR is up to his ears in lies and trickery as far as this missing document is concerned. If this is so we will have trouble keeping ourselves clear of the mess this is likely to cause. I have no feeling as to what sort of allegations SHANDOR may make against the Ukrainian emigres who may have some links with CIA. I don't intend to push Fleishman on this issue. I think it is a safer course to let him follow his own case and leads. Otherwise we may be charged with making allegations against a Customs officer. Whatever information we now pass to Customs I think we should do it in form of a CSCI memo. Then there will be no doubt as to what we said or did not say.

This is what we wanted to do in the first place.